

Wash

COURIER

~~SECRET~~ ~~PBSUCCESS~~ ~~RYBAT~~

MAY 28 1954

LINCOLN

Chief of Station, Guatemala []

[] Operational Report []

1. Attached is an envelope containing three of the lapel buttons obtained in Mexico by the individual mentioned in paragraph 2 of []

2. Enclosure 2 is a report from [] regarding [] activities. Paragraphs 3 and 4 relate to the organization of propaganda teams in the towns mentioned. Highlights were cabled to you along with subsequent information that chiefs have been selected in all the towns except Quiché. Paragraph 9 refers to an article in La Hora which stated that the prisoners at Salamá lacked legal aid. [] was instructed to investigate. Paragraph 15 concerns the possibility, previously reported, that oppositionists not associated with CALLIGERIS might attempt a premature uprising.

3. In a separate report [] submitted the following by-product intelligence data from [] The source is [] who is reportedly a member of a special []

"The government is convinced that it cannot prevent the invasion therefore attempts will be made to kill the leaders before they can move. The government sent some people to Honduras on May 20, 1954 to plan the assassination of Castillo Armas, Capitan Fernandez, Secaira, and Coronel Flores.

"Salvador Enrique LOPEZ and one BUHALTER (fnu) may be government agents. They are believed to be in Honduras. The former is the son of an agent of the Guardia Judicial. He writes to his father regularly.

[] are reportedly under surveillance by the Guardia Judicial. A woman known by the name Gilda REYES Barrios has been enlisted by the Guardia Judicial to elicit information from the [] brothers.

"A special police group has been formed at the Casa Presidencial headed by Carlos BARRIOS Peña. It has been formed

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because ARBENZ apparently no longer trusts ROSENBERG and CRUZ Wer. The group is composed of sixty men.

"According to rumors in the Palace, the clandestine radio is believed to be located in the basement (sótanos) of the Cathedral. Some believe it to be a portable station of high frequency (that is moved from place to place).

/"Source states that the government has a special group prepared to kill all known anti-communists and other oppositionists at the first sign of an uprising.

"The government knows that Castillo Armas has two airplanes at his disposal (one in Honduras; one in Belice).

"The government receives word daily from Honduras regarding the activities of Castillo Armas.

"The army is reportedly divided into two groups: the older officers, and the younger officers. The older officers are determined to form a 'junta' as soon as any action starts and then try to make a deal with Castillo Armas and the 'Americans'. The younger officers are reportedly decided not to fire a shot or else go over to Castillo Armas."

4. Enclosure 3 is a detailed summary of [] reasons for desiring to close [] Both [] and [] are convinced that if the recommended course of action is not taken, the government will accomplish the same thing in the manner outlined in paragraph 2 of this enclosure and leave us with no sound basis for a propaganda attack based on alleged suppression of the press, etc. The station agrees with the course of action recommended in this enclosure, but we have asked [] to delay implementation pending consultation with you to determine if you prefer to hang on for reasons not known to us. Please advise soonest.

[]
27 May 1954

Attachments: (3)

Distribution:

- 2-Line w/att (5)
- 2-Wash w/ 2 att.
- 1- files w/ 2 att.

21 May 1954

1. Regarding the proposed closing of the paper [] states that he believes it would be a serious error to publish a strong article, forcing the government to close the paper.

2. It is his belief that the government's reaction would not be to close, physically, the paper. Rather, on the charges of connection with Castillo Armas on the outside, the government would seize [] the members of the [] and even the imprenta, []. This would have the effect of shutting down the paper because of lack of personnel (and scare off anybody else), and yet the government would not have touched the paper. It would also present the government in a logical position before the people - defending itself against a subversive movement.

3. In view of past charges [] the arrest of these members would not only prove a handicap, but would also be dangerous to the security of [] and others. The police would work hard to break these prisoners (most of them are just youths) and through them the trail would lead to others.

4. Nor can a strong article be printed and then the "responsible" be gotten out of the country. If the responsible who signs for the article is not at hand, the imprenta and the comité can legally be held responsible.

5. [] prefers to "force" the closing in the following manner: bring out in the next issue, or the issue following that, the announcement that [] is being forced to close because of threats against the paper, the comité, and the imprenta. The issue will print copies of these threats. To make sure that the paper has "evidence" as strong as possible, [] is sending letters through the mail, threatening dire consequences if the paper continues to be printed.

6. This type closure will strike a maximum propaganda blow for the group, as well as serve to put the government and its supporters in the position of having to defend themselves against charges of restricting the freedom of the press.

7. This "forced" closure will have to occur within a short time, because with the increase of government activities against the opposition, the death of Oscar Luna which everyone attributes to the police, the threats which have been made against the opposition, [] contribute time and effort to bringing out the paper and sharing the responsibility for it are becoming less willing each day. [] etc., those willing to

A.

21 May 1954

SUBJECT: Meeting Between [] and []

1. A meeting occurred between [] and [] on Thursday night, 20 May.

2. The 300 copies of [] were passed to []. Also one marking kit for use in "32" campaign in writing on car windows.

3. In connections with the underground system to be set up, chiefs have been selected in the following towns: Guatemala, San José, Cobán, Zacapa, Jutiapa, and Quezaltenango. (Leaving Mazatenango, Quiché, and Puerto Barrios which still have to be studied.) These chiefs are to appoint their own deputies, and select whatever other personnel they will need. Data and other information on the personnel is being obtained.

4. Six mimeograph machines have been spotted to date in Guatemala. These will be purchased as soon as [] is in a position to get them all as nearly at the same time as possible, and personnel have been selected to make the purchases.

5. [] sought out [] to find out if any word had been received concerning his going, or his not going, to New York.

6. The father of the Rivera youth is going to Honduras in a few days on business matters. [] will secure data on airplane flight, etc., which can be sent to PANCHO so that somebody can contact Sr. Rivera and he won't go around making public inquiries.

7. One of the medical examiners (attempt is being made to obtain name) who examined the body of Oscar Luna reported

that Luna was dead before he was put in the water at Lago Amatitlán. He bases his opinion on the fact that the body bore marks of blows on the neck, over the eye, and that the spots which form on the body after a person is dead were on the back - indicating that the body had at one time been stretched out on its back. When the body was recovered from the water, it was face down.

8. Furthermore, the police admit having seen Luna Sunday morning. A body will not float after it has drowned until around 24 hours later. His body was floating and recovered later during the day Sunday.

9. The article which appeared in "La Hora" of Wednesday of this week, relative to Salamá case delay, was placed by the group. None of the prisoners in reality are lacking lawyers, it is just that those who have not been able to provide their own lawyer have had a lawyer appointed for them by the court. This naturally results in lack of interest, poor work (intentionally done), etc. The group is trying to obtain another lawyer to handle these cases, and perhaps hasten the matter.

10. The person who visited the prisoners at Salamá recently states that the situation there has undergone a great change. The judge (Flores) is now very attentive and gave the visitor permission to have more time to see the prisoners.

11. [] is pretty badly off at Salamá (mental), and [] told the visitor not to say anything to [] about what is going on. [] is going out every day to work in the jail office. This privilege has been granted by the judge Flores to placate the prisoners. The prisoners, for their part, requested the visitor to make the judge a present of a bottle of liquor.

12. The prisoners earnestly request that nothing be publicized, particularly over the clandestine radio, about them there, nor about the change in the judge's attitude, so as not to bring down any punishments and make their situation worse.

13. They report that the clandestine radio is heard very clearly in Salamá, and all the "jefes", etc., listen.

14. The people of the group in Salamá are very weak, and anxious that action begin as soon as possible.

15. [] requests that PANCHO be reminded that []a "had the support of the Department of State and that he had a certain amount of armament", and presumably this armament could be used in an uprising previous to ours.

16. The gossip going around among those in the group in Salamá is that the airplanes of PANCHO are in a place in Nicaragua called "la montaña del León" or something similar.

17. A señor [] of Salama, who is the ex-director of the Penitenciaría de Guatemala (city) requests that he be mentioned to PANCHO. He wants to go to Honduras, is insistent in this, and says that he can be useful. He is friendly to the group, and is known to PANCHO.

18. Taking advantage of []'s birthday, commentaries regarding Salamá have been submitted to the newspapers.

19. Sunday, May 16, Luis Gaitan and Manuel Monroy, Secretario General of the Unión Campesina (Monroy), and Secretario of PRG (Gaitan) arrived at San Mateo, Antigua, and other places in the area, calling together the people and telling them that they now had arms and that they wanted all those who were in agreement with the government and willing to defend it, to sign up in a book which Gaitan and Monroy had. They also promised to give money to those so signing. 14 persons signed. They then asked if there were any prisoners who wanted to sign up, telling them they would be given immediate liberty. Isaul García Jiménez (ladron) and Ernesto Pérez (striking and wounding his parents) and several other prisoners (names unknown) obtained their release, by signing up.

20. Monroy and Gaitan told the signers to be ready at all times, and that cars would be sent to pick them up.

21. Monroy and Gaitan also said that any student or person who looked like a student passing through these places in excursions, trips, etc., should be searched - forcibly if necessary - and if they refuse, or propaganda is found on their person, or paint, etc., they should be beaten up or lynched. Those taking part in this type activity need have no worry over possible consequences, because the government would back them up in any action against the anti-Communists.

22. These two government representatives also said that all the anti-Communist campesinos in the area should be watched, and controled, so that the day they receive word, the anti-Communists can be seized and killed.

23. There is a group of persons. recommended by (who is known to [] who want to go to Honduras. [] states that [] knows how to contact if he wants these persons.

24. The ~~Argentin~~ cartoons connected with the clandestine radio are coming out in volantes and should appear within the next few days.

25. The next meeting Between [] and [] is scheduled for Saturday morning, 22 May.

[]